

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Mobility & Transport, Street for People

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Urban Agendas / planning

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

Sofia



1,400,000



492 km²

General Socio-economic Profile

Sofia is one of the oldest cities in Europe, whose history can be traced back some 7,000 years. Declared a capital city in 1879, Sofia is the largest city of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the 14th largest city in Europe with a population of 1.4 million. It's the biggest centre of economy, politics, technology, administration, culture, and education in Bulgaria. The city has an export and service-oriented economy, with 16% of exports produced by its growing ICT sector. Sofia has one of the most vibrant innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in Central and Eastern Europe. It is a magnet for talent, and is home to 23 of Bulgaria's 54 universities. Forty percent of students are in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields. A share of 52.8% of the working-age population has a university degree. Around one third of the people in the age group of 19-34 speak more than one foreign language at an intermediary or even higher level.



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Good Practices

- Digitalisation and innovation; using innovative technologies for sustainable urban development
- Smart mobility, green and on-demand transport projects
- Waste management and resource efficiency
- Co-creation as a key aspect for sustainable urban development
- Engaging citizens in dialogues, ecosystem management, urban projects and strategy formulation
- Creating a long-term vision/strategy for SUDs

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- **Education, Jobs and Skills.** The city wishes to collaborate within clusters, and develop innovation centres and hubs to enhance competitiveness and business potential of SMEs, industries and the society. The new European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for big data, high-speed computing and AI provides tailored one-stop-shop services, as well as opportunities for innovation, global presence, and training. It also actively promotes collaboration and exchange of know-how and best practices with Chinese cities.
- **Mobility & Transport is a key focus of the municipal and national government.** It is a priority for the Innovative Sofia, the Transport & Urban Mobility Department, and the Urban Mobility Centre in Sofia.
- **Urban Agenda / Planning** - SUD strategies, public space, urban models
- **Circular Economy** - waste management is another priority both at the municipal and national level. It is a key focus of the Green System, Ecology and Land Use Department in Sofia.